

Course Syllabus

Course: Criminal Intelligence CRJU 3923 (Examining the Evidence)
3 semester hours

Instructor: Michael Alpers

Office Phone: (940) 397-6306

Office Location: MSU (Martin Rm # 105 -B)

Office Hours: The instructor will be available on D2L throughout the week, and in office Tues. and Thur. from 8 AM to 2 PM. If a student has a need for immediate assistance or a personal issue not directly related to the course curriculum contact the instructor via email : Michael.Alpers@MSUTexas.edu .

I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the law of criminal evidence and to the criminal intelligence process. Criminal Intelligence is a class that is central to the study of criminal justice. Students learn to understand the process of gathering material for trial and the challenge of establishing a defendant's guilt or innocence at trial. The study of the investigative and trial process also gives students an appreciation of the rights and values underlying the American system of justice.

II. Course Rationale

In order to prevent and control crime and other social problems in modern society, students planning on criminal justice careers and those interested in maintaining a safe, just, and orderly society need to comprehend the nature and extent of crime as well as a method for analyzing data and evidence that can assist Law Enforcement in better combating these problems.

III. Prerequisites

There are no prerequisite courses for CRJU 3923.

IV. Course Goals and objectives

Different types of evidence analysis are discussed

Structure of the Legal System

The Criminal Justice Process

Types of Evidence

Direct and Circumstantial Evidence

Witnesses

Crime Scene Evidence

Documentary Evidence, Models, Maps, and Diagrams

Hearsay / Privileges

The Exclusionary Rule

Searches and Seizures

Interrogations, Lineups, and Identifications

V. Text and Supplemental Materials

Lippman, Matthew. Criminal Evidence (Sage Publishing) ISBN# 978148335955
Required

VII. Instruction Methods

The instruction methods in this course will include a step by step guidebook with associated files, messages from the instructor, hands on exercises, interaction between class members via the internet and PowerPoint presentations. Class participation will be determined by comments from students obtained through various discussions.

VIII. Attendance Policy and Course Withdrawal Date

Being involved and making a difference are important marks of a community service professional. All assignment due dates will be posted throughout the

IX. Course Requirements and the Term Grade

Exam III 100 points
Discussions 100 points each
Writing Current Event X2 – 200
Midterm Exam 200
Final 200

X. About the Instructor

My name is Michael Alpers and I will be your instructor for this course. I'm really looking forward to working with you over the next several months and hope to get to know you better along the way. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me with them at any time. I have posted a brief bio below so you may get to know a little more about me. Thanks for being a part of this class!

I have been in law enforcement for 20+ years. I started out a fingerprint clerk in the Taylor County Jail at age 17. I became a Certified Jailer for the same Jail when I turned 18. I then tested for Police Officer in San Angelo, Texas where I began my career as a police officer. I later met my wife and had three children two boys and a girl in that order. We moved to the Wichita Falls area and I worked for about 6 years for the Burkburnett Police department. I then moved over to the Wichita County Sheriff's Office and finally ended up on the Wichita County District Attorney Drug Task Force. I work street level narcotics and highway interdiction for 8 years. While at the District Attorney's Office I completed my Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Admin. I began teaching at Midwestern State university in 2015 and have enjoyed it ever since.

I have been teaching for Midwestern State University for a few years now. Overall, I have been teaching online for numerous years in the criminal justice and homeland security disciplines. I have taught for many years at several local and state police training academies and benefit from interacting with the students, which leads me to look at what I do daily in my job a bit differently from time to time.

Some of my interests include hunting, traveling and making sure I set aside quality time with my family. I have always enjoyed learning, and hope that you will benefit from my knowledge and experience.

I look forward to getting to know you and helping you reach your goals!

Michael W. Alpers

XI. Criminal Justice Program Philosophy on Career Preparation:

The Criminal Justice Program's philosophy:

Provide students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, abilities, and sensitivities that will prepare them to work in criminal justice and related human service professions. Much of the learning necessary to be successful in criminal justice is just as applicable to work in other public service and private sector professions.

A. Three-part Foundation

1. **Basic Skills** - Reads, writes, performs arithmetic and mathematical operations, listens and speaks.
2. **Thinking Skills** - Thinks creatively, makes decisions, problem solver, visualizes, and knows how to learn, and reasons.
3. **Personal Qualities** - Displays responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management, and integrity.

B. Five Competencies

1. **Resources** - Identifies, organizes, plans, and allocates resources.
2. **Interpersonal** - Works with others.
 3. **Information** - Acquires and uses information.
 4. **Systems** - Understands complex inter-relationships.
 5. **Technology** - Works with a variety of technologies.

In short, the Criminal Justice faculty will emphasize the practice of professional behavior, which should give its graduates a decided advantage in locating, and retaining satisfying careers.

XII. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities. A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [Link to ADA compliance site](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

XIII. Academic honesty policy

Be sure that you understand the university's Academic Honesty Policy. It is important that you refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. You should also be aware that as a member of the academic community, it is your responsibility to

turn in all suspected violators of the honor system. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to: inappropriate citations of sources, "padding" your references, purchasing/copying a paper from the internet or friend, copying and pasting from a resource etc. Plagiarism of assignments will result in a grade of 0 and will be reported. Please review the academic honesty policy for MSU Texas.

https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf

Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.